

The Bethel Courier.

A Weekly Family Newspaper, Central in Politics, devoted to Literature Agriculture, Education, the Mechanic Arts, and the News of the Day.

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The Bethel Courier.

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HISTORY OF BETHEL.

BY DR. N. T. THUR.

CHAPTER XCI.

The following is a list of the resident proprietors in the town previous to 1780.

It was furnished the author by Mr. Peter York, in 1858. Mr. York was born in 1777, and came to Bethel when two years old, consequently he has been a resident of Bethel, 80 years, longer we believe than any other person.

Nathaniel Ayer lived on the farm, now occupied by Capt. Asa Kimball, and was the first person who wintered in town.

This was in 1776. Jesse Dunstan settled where Adam Willis now lives, in Ham-

mond, where John Bean, where Abner Brown now lives. Isaac I. York, where Humphrey Bean now lives. Nathaniel Segar, on Wm. Barker's farm. Moses Bartlett, on Gideon and Silas Powers on Reuben Foster's farm, now Ham-

mond.

There were 8 families on the north side of the river, in the lower Parish, previous to 1780.

On the south side of the river, Joseph Kilgore lived on the farm of Israel Kimball. Amos Hastings on Israel Kimball's.

Enoch Bartlett came from Newton, Mass., and settled on the farm of Elias Carter. Reuben Bartlett lived on Simon Brown's farm. Bay, Russell lived on John Williams's. James Swan lived on John Williams's. John Holt lived on William Holt's farm. Isaac Insley York lived on Humphrey Bean's farm. John York lived on Edmund Bean's farm. He came to Bethel in 1780. Joseph Ayer came from Standish to Bethel, in 1786 or 7, and lived on Samuel Ayer's farm, Bean's Corner. Thaddeus Bartlett came from Newton, Mass., and lived on Hall Bartlett's farm. Jonathan Bartlett came from Newton, Mass., and lived on Elias Bartlett's farm. Amos Houghton lived on Moses Houghton's farm. Richard Ester lived on Richard Ester's farm. He came from Berwick. Jeremiah Andrews lived on Capt. Wm. Goodard's. James Willis came from Sudbury, Mass., to Bethel, in 1786. He was enlisted to put down Shays Rebellion.

Letter from Boston.

Boston, Jan. 26, 1861.

DEAR COURIER:—I propose to lay before your readers, a few items about the public institutions of this city. I have never seen any particular account of this nature in print, and think the subject may be of some interest.

The Athenaeum, on Beacon street, first claims our attention. It is a large granite building, after a plan and architecture of Edward C. Cabot, of Winter St., one of the first Architects of the country, and is a noble building, both inside and out. This building contains many of the finest works of Art, in the world, both of paintings and statuary. It is not open to the public now, but a gentleman who is interested in the concern, (Dr. C. E. Ware,) procured for me an entrance, and was kind enough to show me around and explain many things to me. I noticed many very valuable paintings from Rattel and other old artists, and among the rest many subjects of Allston, unfinished. It seems he would commence and nearly finish a work, then leave it and begin another, and so on, never finishing anything.

Among the statuary were many imperfect casts of ancient subjects, some wanting an arm, others some other member. The Dr. explained this to me, by saying that this was the state in which the works were found in bronze, and cast in plaster, from them. Some of them were excavated from buried cities, and others were taken from the great churches at Rome: the most noted of which were perhaps "Night and Day," and "Hercules" &c., &c. In this building also, on the ground floor is a splendid library of one hundred thousand volumes.

There is also a free public library on Boylston street containing 90,000 vols., which was founded or endowed by Mr. Bates, a former citizen of Boston, and now a London Merchant. This is a noble institution, and contains a free reading room, in which, were seated forty or fifty persons, some reading papers, and

some books. Any citizen of Boston, may take books from this library to read at his leisure.

The Aquarial Gardens, situated on Washington St., in Central Court, owned and managed by Messrs. Cutting and Butler, next claims our attention. This is a source of much pleasure to the lovers of the study of animated nature.

In the centre of the aquarial department, is a large circular tank, some thirty feet in diameter, into which is thrown up, by an engine from below, a continual stream of salt water. This tank, is filled with many kinds of fish from the ocean.

Around this centre tank, and made of thick glass are small tanks on stands, containing Zoophytes, Polypt, Sponges and fishes in great variety.

On the floor under the above department is the Zoological department, in which I saw a good two year-old Moose, two Red Deer, two Kangaroos, some Seals, which were a real curiosity, on account of their acquired knowledge.

They could play on a hand organ, and perform many other laughable feats.

There were also some Anconadas, one of which measures nearly twenty feet in length, and in the cage with it was a rabbit destined to be eaten by some one of them. They feed, generally, as often as they shed their scales, which is once in three months, and then only on live game, such as fowls, rabbits, &c.

There were also many animals and birds, of opposite natures and dispositions, living together in one cage, called the happy family. Also a great variety of turtles, and among other animals was an Armadillo, from South America.

Persons visiting Boston, may pass a few hours in these gardens very pleasantly and profitably.

The Suffolk county Jail is situated on Charles St., near Cambridge bridge, and is a fine building, both outside and in. Mr. Bartlett, the jailor, is a very gentlemanly person, and many of the officers in charge, by turn, were very obliging. Mr. Pope showed our party around the building. It is entirely finished inside with wrought and cast iron. The inside of the main building is in one large room, from roof to ground floor, four stories, with rows of cells around the sides on each story, and from stairs to go up to each row of cells, and a passage way of the same material entirely around the room by each row of cells or stories.

The room is heated by hot water in iron pipes, running in all directions about the building, heated by a furnace in the cellar. Underneath this large prison room is the cooking apartment and store room. Mr. Pope treated us to a cup of coffee from a monstrous coffee pot, holding more than a barrel; also a lump of sugar from a large box of stores, but when I tasted of the fine, white lump, I imagined it tasted slightly saline. (Sold.)

The State House presents quite a brilliant appearance when the sun shines, as the cupola has been gilded, and the base dome under it painted yellow. While looking at it the other day I was puzzled to know if the State of Massachusetts could afford to gild that yellow paint.

Places of amusement are on the rise at the Howard, Davenport is gaining laurels in the Tragic line. The "Dead Heart" is being played with great success.

Our friend D. Satchell, has made a great hit, and is being encored from time to time, with much force. He is destined to make a star.

Very truly Yours,

J. G. E.

THE BARN OWL.—The Barn Owl, not only never injures the farmer or gardener, but, on the contrary, it is very useful in the destruction of multitudes of the smaller quadrupeds, which live upon the fruits of the farmer's labors. If there is a meadow infested with moles or shrews, which are destroying the roots of the young grass or grains, or an out-house infested with mice or other vermin, and a pair of these feathered cats take up their abode in the neighborhood, instead, (as is too often the case) of effecting their destruction, the farmer ought to use as much care to protect them from vagrant boys and vagabond hunters, as is taken in the East for the protection of the stork, or in our Southern cities of the Black Vulture.—American Agriculturist.

CUTTING.

Beavers.

The habits and habitations of beavers furnish many interesting lessons for study to the woodmen and hunters, whether scientific naturalists or not. In our boyhood the principal sources of information respecting them were the old dams and traces of dams that were found on every little brook where we fished or hunted cowslips for greens. Those beaver dams consisted of ridges of earth from four feet above the common level of the "beaver meadow" flat, running each way from the brook to rising land. We would find great numbers of those dams when it would be hard to understand how they could ever make ponds of sufficient depth for the beaver's use. But the brooks in the principal forest, before the inroads of civilization, afforded more water than in modern times, and in many instances the marshy pools which the beaver's habits require, by a natural process have grown up and filled up to solid land. As in the older parts of the country no new works were found, it was generally understood that the beaver's nest and moved off whenever civilized settlements grew up near them, and we have been surprised to find in this region the evidence of so many working beavers. On the different tributaries of the St. John river running out of this State, there are some hundreds of them caught every year, and they do not seem to diminish. Hunting parties, whether of white men or Indians, consisting usually of two or three men, get from ten to twenty beavers in a winter's hunt. Lumbering operations have a tendency to drive them to the small brooks and head sources of the rivers, for when found on "driving streams" their dams have to be torn away; but they do not seem particularly shy of men or settlements unless their dams or houses are destroyed. Four or five years ago, it is said, a company of them built dams and houses in the town of Ashland, on only two miles from the village or corner, as it is called, and stayed two years, when a part were caught, and the rest driven away, by the hunters.

There are two kinds of them, differing only in habits. For some reason now and then one of them usually wanders alone, and has only a hole in the bank of the river to live in, while they generally live in pairs or families, building houses and providing stores in companies—hence the terms "family" or "working beaver." The supposition is that the bank beavers are such as have for some reason come short of a mate, or for idleness have been driven from the ponds and houses; they are the same animals every way only exiles. The law of industry among the working beavers is well attested to by hunters. Their dams or houses are built anew or remodelled every fall, and in a way to suit the height of the water during the succeeding winter or spring. The object of the dam seems to be to regulate the height of water at their houses, where they have two or three berths at different heights, where they sleep high and dry but with tails in the water, thus being warned of any change in the rise and fall of water. Some houses stand six feet at least above the surface of the meadow, covered with mud in the form of a round coal pit, but intersected with sticks of wood, so as to be strong, and the weight of three or four men makes no impression upon it. A "full family," as hunters call them, consists of the parental pair and the males of the next generation with their mates. When the tribe get larger than this they colonize. Some time in the fall all single ones of both sexes congregate from considerable distances, at the deepest lake in the vicinity, where they choose their mates; how ceremonious the nuptials we cannot say; then they all go home, the female following her mate, and all go to work, first putting the house and dam in order for winter, then laying in their stock of food, the bark of which is their winter food. They go up stream some three miles from their wood, and ram it down to their houses, and then in some mysterious way make it lay in a pile at the bottom of the pond, outside of the house, where they may take it in at any time in the winter for use. It is said that no human hands can disturb that wood without its rising and remaining afloat till the beaver has the hand-

ling of it again. But we do not feel quite sure what is fact and what is conjecture respecting the beaver, whose works are so much in night and deep under water. The fall of the year is a busy time with them, and it is interesting to see their new dams in process of building, as we sometimes find them across large floating streams, and not unfrequently boatmen and river drivers tear away their dams and get a good head of water for their use. They usually build at the outlet of natural ponds, and sometimes they flow large lakes and long pieces of dead water, but are always moving and reconstructing. How they keep their teeth in order for so much eating, when the best steel would wear out, is a mystery.

They cut logs sometimes a foot through, and every stroke of the tooth tells toward the job, and never does a tooth get dull as we can see. Two winters ago, near Ashland, some lumbermen encamped near one of their ponds. One afternoon they felled a tree across the lumber road, and before morning it was cut up and handsomely piled out of the road.—Arundel Pioneer.

Calendar of Operation for Feb., 1861.

Fruit.—Winter holds sway at the North, though, thus far, its reign has been less severe than is often experienced. A short hay crop has, in previous years, in previous years, often been followed by the compensation of a mild winter, yet many always suffer loss for want of sufficient fodder to winter stock properly. Much may be saved by providing warm shelter, as was fully argued last month; and those who have, in addition, a good stock of roots to draw upon, find the benefit of the provision. Let those who are inconvenienced by short supplies at this time, make a note of it, and guard against like trouble in a future.

Barnyard Stables.—Keep out the wind and storm, but provide sufficient ventilation to carry off all effluvia. The odors arising from excretions, if confined, make the atmosphere unwholesome for animals, and impart a taint to their feed.

Cattle.—Observe directions given last month. Keep breeding cows in wide roomy stalls, separate from other animals, as their time of calving approaches.

Cellars.—Sort over potatoes, roots, apples, etc., and remove all decaying matter. If more apples were stored than are needed for family use, market them, or feed to stock. Examine pork and beef barrels; some may need new brine.

Clover Seed.—Provide a supply of this for sowing upon the grain fields, as Spring approaches. A lot of clover for pasture is good; and the best and cheapest manure is a tall growth of clover plowed in.

Fencing.—Add to the stock of materials if needed, and commence repairs as early as may be.

Feed.—Have a year's supply ready for the stove. Spring will bring work enough without this additional labor. Besides, dry fuel is best, and the cheapest. It always takes the heat of a portion of green wood to dry out the moisture from the rest.

Hired Men.—Engage good trustworthy hands for the ensuing season. One or two dollars per month is a small matter compared with the loss and vexation caused by ignorant or careless help.

Hogs.—Warm, cooked food is economical. Keep them in good appetite by occasional changes of diet. Give potatoes, meal, a little chopped hay steamed, refuse vegetables, etc., with grain and meal. Keep the pen clean and well littered with leaves or straw.

Ice Houses.—Fill if not completed. Secure proper drainage and ventilation.

Line and Plaster.—Get at least a few barrels of these home during winter, to sow on your wheat in spring, and upon the pasture fields and meadows. A strip sown through each field, will most likely show good results, or at least indicate whether a larger expenditure from these fertilizers will or will not pay.

Manures.—Make and save all possible. Cart out and deposit in heaps in the field in suitable weather.

Maple Sugar.—Prepare necessary apparatus.

paratus. Commence making as soon as the sap will flow. Shallow evaporating pans are best.

Poultry.—Guard against vermin by occasional fumigation of nesting places, and whitewashing the roosts. Remove the droppings to the manure heap, or mix with plaster, and reserve them for the garden or other choice plots.

Seed.—Make ample provision for seed corn, spring wheat, oats, and whatever else will be needed. It is better done now, than in the hurry of spring.

Sheep.—Provide ample shelter separate from other stock. Keep them in good condition with roots or grain added to hay. Breeding ewes will bear stronger lambs and be less embolled thereby, if properly treated through the winter.

Trees.—Put all in complete order.

ORCHARD AND NURSERY.

Little can be done in this department until the ground is in order for transplanting. The earlier that operation can be commenced, the more favorable for the trees.

Scions will soon be needed. Procure choice sorts any time this month when not frozen. Label each sort distinctly, and keep until wanted for grafting, in sand or the cellar.

Insects are more readily reached now than later in the season.

Scrape the trunks and main limbs of trees infested with barklice, and scorpions, with moderately strong lye.

KITCHEN AND FRUIT GARDEN.

Spring work in the garden may be forwarded during this month by preparation of implements, seeds, etc.

Grape Vines.—Prune, if not done at the proper time in the Fall.

Manures.—For fruit trees, leaves, or sawdust saturated with urine is an excellent application.

HINTS FOR FEBRUARY.—Let saving be the watch-word for this month. Save the flesh of animals by attending to their comfort; keep them warm, sheltered and clean; feed and water them regularly; give wholesome food, and pure water; keep stables clean and well ventilated; watch animals and supply all wants; save fodder by good feeding racks; never allow hay to be wasted in the mow; racks save their cost every month; feed often and in small quantities; shelter cattle from sweeping winds; shelter sheep from driving storms; shelter swine in clean, warm beds. Avoid the waste of using wet wood; fill the wood house for summer use; save chips and cobs for kindling. Protect trees from mice by trading snow about them. Subscribe for agricultural papers, and suggest the same course to others.

TOO HOT TO BE PLEASANT. A Representative giving some of his experience at the capital of his State, relates the following:

"My friends," continued the Representative, "you all know that I went to the Legislature last year. Well, I got to Augusta, and took dinner at a tavern; right beside me, at the table, sat a member from one of the back towns, that had never taken dinner before at a tavern in his life. Before his plate was a dish of peppers, and he kept looking at them; and finally, as the waiters were mighty slow bringing on things, he took up with his fork and in less than no time soused one in his mouth. As he brought his grinders down on it, the tears came into his eyes. At last, spitting the pepper into his hands, he laid it down by the side of his plate—and with a voice that set the whole table in a roar, exclaimed: "Jist lie thar and cool!"

Good-looking girls in male attire are dangerous counterfeits.

A good story is told of a hard-shell Baptist missionary in Medina, who had become mixed up in land speculations in Minnesota. On entering his pulpit, recently, he announced to his congregation at the opening of divine service, that his text he found in St. Paul's epistle to the Minnesotians, section four, range three, west.

Love is a compound of honey and gall, mixed in various proportions for customers.

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